

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-26 (Cancelled)

27. **(Currently amended)** A head support device for supporting a read and/or write head for recording information on and/or reproducing information from a recording medium that rotates around an axis of rotation of the recording medium, said head support device comprising:

 a base arm adapted to be pivotable about a first axis that is parallel to and spaced apart from the axis of rotation of the recording medium;

 a support arm coupled to said base arm and adapted to be pivotable about the first axis together with said base arm;

 a flexure fixed to said support arm;

 a slider to which the head is to be mounted, said slider being mounted to said flexure at said first end of said support arm; and

 a spring member coupling said support arm to said base arm for applying a thrust force to the head via said support arm and said flexure;

 wherein a pivot fulcrum arrangement is provided to pivotally mount said support arm for pivoting about a second axis relative to said base arm, said second axis being perpendicular to said first axis; and

 wherein said flexure is fixed to said support arm between a midpoint of a distance from said first end of said support arm to said pivot fulcrum arrangement and a midpoint of a distance from a second end of said support arm to said pivot fulcrum arrangement.

28. **(Currently amended)** The head support device of claim 27, wherein
 said flexure is fixed to said support arm in the vicinity of said pivot fulcrum arrangement.

29. **(Previously presented)** The head support device of claim 27, wherein

said spring member has lower rigidity than said support arm.

30. **(Currently amended)** A head support device for supporting a read and/or write head for recording information on and/or reproducing information from a recording medium that rotates around an axis of rotation of the recording medium, said head support device comprising:

 a base arm adapted to be pivotable about a first axis that is parallel to and spaced apart from the axis of rotation of the recording medium;

 a support arm coupled to said base arm and adapted to be pivotable about the first axis together with said base arm;

 a flexure fixed to said support arm;

 a slider to which the head is to be mounted, said slider being mounted to said flexure at ~~said~~ a first end of said support arm; and

 a spring member coupling said support arm to said base arm for applying a thrust force to the head via said support arm and said flexure;

 wherein a pivot fulcrum arrangement is provided to pivotally mount said support arm for pivoting about a second axis relative to said base arm, said second axis being perpendicular to said first axis;

 wherein said support arm has a slit formed therein at a second end thereof; and

 wherein said flexure is supported on both said base arm and said support arm and passes through said slit of said support arm.

31. **(Currently Amended)** The head support device of claim 30, wherein

 said flexure is fixed to said support arm in the vicinity of said pivot fulcrum arrangement;

 a terminal part of said flexure, which is adapted to extend to a terminal, passes through said slit in said support arm to a side of said support arm that faces said base arm; and

 a reinforcing plate is fixed to a side of said support arm that is provided with said slider to strengthen said support arm.

32. **(Previously presented)** The head support device of claim 30, wherein said spring member has a hole and a slit part formed therein.

33. **(Previously presented)** The head support device of claim 30, wherein said support arm is provided with a balancer for balancing the thrust force of said spring member about a bearing; and
a resultant center of gravity of respective centers of gravity of said flexure provided with said slider, a pivot section of said support arm and said balancer acts in a direction passing through said second axis.

34. **(Previously presented)** The head support device of claim 33, wherein said pivot fulcrum arrangement comprises a pair of pivot fulcrums; and said second axis passes through vertexes of said pivot fulcrums.

35. **(Previously presented)** The head support device of claim 27, wherein said spring member has a hole and a slit part formed therein.

36. **(Previously presented)** The head support device of claim 35, wherein said hole and said slit part of said spring member are connected to each other.

37. **(Previously presented)** The head support device of claim 36, wherein said hole is symmetric with respect to a centerline of said support arm.

38. **(Previously presented)** The head support device of claim 36, wherein said hole of said spring member is formed as one of a circle, an ellipse and a polygon.

39. **(Previously presented)** The head support device of claim 36, wherein said hole of said spring member is formed as a rhombus.

40. **(Cancelled)**

41. **(Previously presented)** The head support device of claim 36, wherein said spring member is formed integrally with said support arm.

42. **(Previously presented)** The head support device of claim 36, wherein said slit part of said spring member is symmetric with respect to a centerline of said support arm.

43. **(Previously presented)** The head support device of claim 35, wherein said hole is provided in a center of said spring member.

44. **(Previously presented)** The head support device of claim 35, wherein said hole is symmetric with respect to a centerline of said support arm.

45. **(Previously presented)** The head support device of claim 35, wherein said hole of said spring member is formed as one of a circle, an ellipse and a polygon.

46. **(Previously presented)** The head support device of claim 35, wherein said hole of said spring member is formed as a rhombus.

47. **(Cancelled)**

48. **(Previously presented)** The head support device of claim 35, wherein

said spring member is formed integrally with said support arm.

49. **(Previously presented)** The head support device of claim 35, wherein said slit part of said spring member is symmetric with respect to a centerline of said support arm.

50. **(Previously presented)** The head support device of claim 27, wherein said support arm is provided with a balancer for balancing the thrust force of said spring member about a bearing; and

a resultant center of gravity of respective centers of gravity of said flexure provided with said slider, a pivot section of said support arm and said balancer acts in a direction passing through said second axis.

51. **(Previously presented)** The head support device of claim 50, wherein said pivot fulcrum arrangement comprises a pair of pivot fulcrums; and said second axis passes through vertexes of said pivot fulcrums.

52. **(Currently amended)** A disk drive comprising:
a recording medium;
rotation driving means for rotating said recording medium about an axis of rotation of the recording medium;

a read and/or write head for recording information on and/or reproducing information from said recording medium rotating around the axis of rotation of the recording medium;

a base arm mounted to be pivotable about a first axis that is parallel to and spaced apart from the axis of rotation of the recording medium;

a support arm coupled to said base arm and mounted to be pivotable about the first axis together with said base arm;

a flexure fixed to said support arm;

a slider to which the head is to be mounted; and

a spring member coupling said support arm to said base arm for applying a thrust force to said head via said support arm and said flexure, said spring member having lower rigidity than said support arm;

wherein a pivot fulcrum arrangement is provided to pivotally mount said support arm for pivoting about a second axis relative to said base arm, said second axis being perpendicular to said first axis; and

wherein said flexure is fixed to said support arm between a midpoint of a distance from ~~said~~ a first end of said support arm to said pivot fulcrum arrangement and a midpoint of a distance from a second end of said support arm to said pivot fulcrum arrangement.

53. (Currently amended) The disk drive of claim 52, wherein
said flexure is fixed to said support arm in the vicinity of said pivot fulcrum arrangement.

54. (Currently amended) A disk drive comprising:

a recording medium;

rotation driving means for rotating said recording medium about an axis of rotation of the recording medium;

a read and/or write head for recording information on and/or reproducing information from said recording medium rotating around the axis of rotation of the recording medium;

a base arm mounted to be pivotable about a first axis that is parallel to and spaced apart from the axis of rotation of the recording medium;

a support arm coupled to said base arm and mounted to be pivotable about the first axis together with said base arm;

a flexure fixed to said support arm;

a slider to which the head is to be mounted; and

a spring member coupling said support arm to said base arm for applying a thrust force to said head via said support arm and said flexure, said spring member having lower rigidity than said support arm;

wherein a pivot fulcrum arrangement is provided to pivotally mount said support arm for pivoting about a second axis relative to said base arm, said second axis being perpendicular to said first axis; and

wherein said support arm has a slit formed therein at ~~a second~~ an end thereof; and

wherein said flexure is supported on both said base arm and said support arm and passes through said slit of said support arm.

55. **(Previously presented)** The disk drive device of claim 54, wherein said spring member has a hole and a slit part formed therein.

56. **(Previously presented)** The disk drive device of claim 52, wherein said spring member has a hole and a slit part formed therein.

57. **(Cancelled)**

58. **(Cancelled)**

59. **(Previously presented)** The head support device of claim 30, wherein said spring member has lower rigidity than said support arm.